

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Curbing Aggressive Driving Working Group  
Meeting Minutes – Mtg. #1  
May 24, 2004**

**Location:**

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Rd, 9:00 a.m..

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Lacy	Cheryl Leonard	Ron Hughes	Jim Long
Major Barry Nickalson	Major Mark Johnson	Pate Butler	Buddy Murr
Brad Hibbs	Jackie Johnson	Cliff Braam	

**Scribe:**

Cliff Braam

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

**Task I – Welcome/Introductions**

- Kevin opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and participating. He provided some background information on why the group was there and highway safety issues in NC particularly as they related to crashes involving aggressive driving.
- Next everyone in the group introduced themselves, where they were from and a bit about their background and area of expertise.

**Task II – Overview Presentation**

- Cliff gave a presentation providing background information on the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS), the accomplishments of the ECHS to date, the formation of the initial 6 Working Groups, and finally the role/charge of the working group and what was expected.

**Task III– Curbing Aggressive Driving; Data Presentation**

- Kevin gave a presentation concerning the issue of aggressive driving; some definitions, behaviors, and other issues from a national perspective as a base for the group to begin thinking about issues and solutions.

## Task IV– Current Initiatives

Name	Discussion
Maj. Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Said that he would like to add a fourth “E”; “Enthusiasm” to the common three of Engineering, Enforcement and Education. It is important for everyone involved in highway safety to keep in mind how important what we are doing is, and that is the reason for the “Enthusiasm”.</li> <li>• The SHP has many safety and special enforcement efforts underway during the course of the year. For example, there is a life saving project during each holiday and each troop is required to have at least one such project per quarter.</li> <li>• A recent project that targeted I-95 from the S.C. state line to the Virginia state line resulted in over 3,000 citations written with approximately 1/3 for speeds in excess of 70 mph.</li> <li>• From a statewide perspective, feels that the SHP should target aggressive driving on the Interstates and let the individual troops be concerned with the US, NC and SR routes.</li> </ul>
Maj. Nickalson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cary has a program in place where they have been targeting US 1 on which there were 6 fatalities last year. So far this year, there have been no fatalities on this section of road.</li> <li>• Since January 2004, have issued over 600 citations on US 1.</li> <li>• Bob Garbett at the NC Justice Academy now has an online course for law enforcement dealing with the issue of aggressive driving.</li> <li>• Cary PD’s aggressive driving program targets blocking intersections, speeding, unsignalized lane changes and improper lane changes.</li> <li>• Has established task forces within the different platoons targeting various issues.</li> <li>• Cary PD has the Traffic Tip Hotline where motorist can call in and report aggressive driving behavior and if a positive I.D. can be made (driver, vehicle, etc.) a form letter is sent to the violator asking for voluntary compliance. Cary PD is in the process of getting city’s web site expanded so that these complaints can be filed on-line.</li> <li>• Looking at expanding their definition of aggressive driving to include violations in school zones.</li> <li>• Look at the big picture; 9 homicides as compared to 63 traffic related fatalities.</li> </ul>

## Task V– Open Discussion

Next there was general discussion about how to define aggressive driving. Below are some of the major points discussed.

Name	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition should be comprised of two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Needs to be something that can be observed</i></li> <li><i>Needs to be something that can be substantiated and</i></li> <li><i>Needs to be able to be verified using data contained within either the crash or a citation database.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Maj. Nickalson	Need a good definition so that a violator can be labeled as an aggressive driver and be determined to be so by the courts so that possibly sanctions for their actions can be elevated.
Maj. Johnson	May need something similar to the felony chase policy, which lists a number of various criteria. If the violator meets 3 or more of the criteria, then they are guilty of a felony.
Ron	Need to also focus on the adjudication process so that these cases are not dismissed through the court system without proper sanctions.
Kevin	The speed-working group is also looking at this issue. Since the speed appears to be a bigger issue, this group will follow the lead of the speed-working group on this.
General	<p>What issues can be considered aggressive driving?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speeding: noticeably in excess of the posted speed limit may have to consider the time of day and prevailing traffic conditions. Is speeding at a predetermined amount over the posted speed limit considered aggressive (i.e. 20mph over)?</li> <li>Following too closely: yes</li> <li>Improper passing: yes</li> <li>Traffic related assault</li> <li>Improper lane use: yes</li> <li>Blocking Intersections; may be a causal factor, but not an actual aggressive behavior</li> <li>Failing to signal: no, may be inconsiderate or may possibly be if combined with other factors</li> <li>Speeding in school zone</li> <li>Deliberately ignoring traffic control devices: yes, when combined with other factors</li> <li>Need to differentiate between aggressive and “bad” drivers</li> </ul>

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Action Items:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>
Cliff	Send electronic copy of NCHRP report out to group members.
Cliff	Contact other states to see what they are doing to address aggressive driving and how they are defining it.
Cliff	Contact Bob Garbett of the Justice Academy to see if he would be willing to participate with the group.
Buddy	Look at activities of Traffic Engineering and ITS to see how these can improve the environment and possible reduce the occurrences of aggressive driving and report back to the group at the next meeting.
All	Confer with staff & develop a definition of aggressive driving and e-mail to Cliff by June 11 <sup>th</sup> . Remember to keep in mind the 3 criteria set outlined in the beginning of the minutes. In order for us to substantiate the situation, the definition needs to be something that can be defined with variables captured on the DMV-349 collision report form if at all possible.

NEXT MEETING: August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., Chief Engineer's Conference Room